Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MANILA 14271 01 OF 02 091102Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-05 PC-01 /069 W
----------027646 091113Z /12
R 090758Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4934

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 MANILA 14271

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, RP
SUBJECT: MORE STUDENT UNREST

REF: (A) MANILA 9866, (B) MANILA 10187, (C) MANILA 11336,
(D) MANILA 13430

1. SUMMARY. CLASSES WERE SUSPENDED SEPTEMBER 6-7 AT MANUEL QUEZON UNIVERSITY AND FEATI UNIVERSITY, TWO OF MANILA'S LARGEST PRIVATE PROFIT-ORIENTED SCHOOLS, AFTER SEVERAL DAYS OF UNRULY BOYCOTTS BY STUDENTS PROTESTING HIGHER TUITION FEES. LATEST DISTURBANCES ARE PART OF WAVE OF PROTEST WHICH HAS SWEPT MANILA UNIVERSITIES SINCE SCHOOL YEAR OPENED IN JUNE. THIS YEAR'S PROTESTS REPRESENT MOST SIGNIFICANT OUT-BREAK OF STUDENT UNREST SINCE MARTIAL LAW. END SUMMARY.

2. AT MANUEL QUEZON UNIVERSITY, STUDENTS BOYCOTTED CLASSES OFF AND ON ALL LAST WEEK. DAILY EXPRESS ESTIMATED 3,500 STUDENTS STAYED AWAY FROM CLASSES. MOLOTOV COCKTAIL BOMBS EXPLODED IN ONE BUILDING DURING MID-TERM EXAMS SEPTEMBER 6, FORCING UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATORS TO SUSPEND CLASSES. THERE WERE NO REPORTS OF INJURIES. ALSO ON SEPTEMBER 6, STUDENTS AT FEATI UNIVERSITY SMASHED WINDOWS AND VANDALIZED BUILDINGS BEFORE SCHOOL OFFICIALS SUSPENDED CLASSES AND
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MANILA 14271 01 OF 02 091102Z

CALLED IN METROCOM POLICE. PROTEST AT FEATI OCCURRED SAME DAY PRESIDENT MARCOS' DAUGHTER IMEE APPEARED ON CAMPUS TO ORGANIZE CHAPTER OF KABATAANG BARANGAY (NATIONAL YOUTH ASSEMBLY). ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, TWELVE STUDENTS WERE ARRESTED AT MANUEL QUEZON AND FEATI, SEPTEMBER 7 AND EIGHTEEN MORE AT FEATI SEPTEMBER 8.

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

3. DURING PAST FEW WEEKS, STUDENT ACTIVISTS HAVE CONTINUED TO ORGANIZE SPORADIC BOYCOTTS AT SEVERAL OTHER MANILA UNIVERSITIES, INCLUDING UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES, ARANETA UNIVERSITY, ADAMSON UNIVERSITY, AND UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS, SO FAR WITHOUT MAJOR INCIDENCE OF VIOLENCE.

4. STUDENTS' MAJOR COMPLAINT IS 15 PERCENT TUITION FEE INCREASE FOR PRIVATE SCHOOLS APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE (DEC) FOR THE 1977-78 SCHOOL YEAR. AFTER AN INITIAL ROUND OF STUDENT PROTEST IN JUNE (SEE REF A) PRESIDENT MARCOS SUSPENDED TUITION HIKE UNTIL DEC HAD CONDUCTED INVESTIGATIONS TO DETERMINE IF INCREASE JUSTIFIED AT INDIVIDUAL SCHOOLS. (AT SAME TIME, MARCOS ALSO ORDERED PARTIAL ROLLBACK OF FEE INCREASES AT STATE-RUN UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES, SOMEWHAT DEFUSING PROTEST AT PHILIPPINE BELWEATHER OF STUDENT RADICALISM. SEE REF B.) DEC BEGAN PUBLIC HEARINGS ON TUITION FEES IN EARLY AUGUST. APPLICATIONS FOR HIGHER TUITION RATES FROM NINE SCHOOLS WERE TURNED DOWN AND REFUNDS ORDERED. HOWEVER, DEC QUIETLY ALLOWED SEVERAL SCHOOLS, INCLUDING THOSE HIT BY MOST RECENT PROTESTS, TO BEGIN COLLECTING HIGHER FEES PENDING COMPLETION OF INVESTIGATIONS. STUDENTS ARGUE THAT HIGHER RATES ARE UNJUSTIFIED AND QUESTION WHETHER THE MONEY WILL BE USED TO IMPROVE SCHOOL FACILITIES. UNIVERSITY OFFICIALS CONTEND, ON THE OTHER HAND, THAT HIGHER TUITION NECESSARY TO KEEP UP WITH INFLATION AND PAY DECENT TEACHERS' SALARIES.
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

5. DURING PAST MONTH, STUDENT DEMANDS, ORIGINALLY LIMITED TO TUITION ISSUE, HAVE BROADENED. LOOSE COALITION OF STUDENT ACTIVISTS FROM THE MAJOR MANILA UNIVERSITIES CALLED "STUDENT ALLIANCE AGAINST TUITION INCREASES" HAS PUBLISHED LIST OF DEMANDS WHICH INCLUDE STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN EDUCATION POLICY DECISIONS, FULL RESTORATION OF STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS, AND IMPROVEMENT OF SCHOOL FACILITIES.

6. MANILA PRESS HAS BEEN SURPRISINGLY SYMPATHETIC TOWARD STUDENT PROTESTERS. DAILY EXPRESS EDITORIALIZED AUGUST 15, "SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES, BEING BUSINESS ENTERPRIESES, SHOULD LOGICALLY REALIZE SOME PROFIT. YET GOVERNMENT SHOULD SEE TO IT THAT THIS BUSINESS CHARACTER OF EDUCATION BE AT LEAST TEMPERED IN CONSIDERATION OF THE SOCIAL SITUATION AND THE LONG-RANGE REQUISITES OF THE COUNTRY." TIMES JOURNAL COLUMNIST ERNESTO GRANADA BLAMED CONTROVERSY ON DEC, SAYING IT HAD FAILED TO PROPERLY MONITOR FEE INCREASES, A VIEW WHICH MANY PROMINENT EDUCATORS SHARE.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MANILA 14271 02 OF 02 091047Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-05 PC-01 /069 W
----------027540 091112Z /12
R 090758Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4935

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 MANILA 14271

7. HOWEVER, DEFENSE SECRETARY ENRILE APPARENTLY NOT SO SANGUINE AS GRANADA. ENRILE DELIVERED SPEECH SEPTEMBER 9 IN WHICH HE WARNED HE WOULD NOT HESITATE TO RECOMMEND CLOSURE OF SCHOOLS OR ARREST OF STUDENTS IF UNREST CONTINUES. ENRILE REPORTEDLY SAID, "IF THEY (STUDENTS) WANT US TO RETURN TO NORMALCY, THEY BETTER BEHAVE."

8. COMMENT: FIRST THREE MONTHS OF 1977-78 SCHOOL YEAR HAVE BEEN MARKED BY DRAMATIC UPSURGE OF STUDENT UNREST AT MANILA UNIVERSITIES. TUITION FEE INCREASE IS TAILOR-MADE FOR STUDENT ACTIVISTS ANXIOUS TO RADICALIZE THEIR PEERS, SINCE VIRTUALLY ALL STUDENTS OPPOSE IT. (HOWEVER, PRESS REPORTED SMALL GROUP OF STUDENTS LED BY MARGIE MORAN-FLOIRENDO, FORMER MISS UNIVERSE AND WIFE OF MILLIONAIRE BANANA MAGNATE TONY FLOIRENDO, CAME OUT IN FAVOR OF HIGHER TUITION AT MARYKNOLL COLLEGE, AN EXCLUSIVE GIRLS SCHOOL.) AS A RESULT, THIS SCHOOL YEAR HAS SEEN MORE FREQUENT AND VOLATILE STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS THEN AT ANY TIME SINCE MARTIAL LAW. DANGER FOR MARCOS REGIME IS THAT GREATER NUMBERS OF STUDENTS MAY NOW BE EMBOLDENED TO PARTICIPATE IN MORE BROADLY ANTI-GOVERNMENT DEMONSTRATIONS SUCH AS THE AUGUST 25 RALLY AT ST. THERESA'S COLLEGE (SEE REF D.) CAMPUS DISORDER REMAINS WELL WITHIN MANAGEABLE PROPORTIONS, BUT IS BOUND TO GIVE PAUSE TO
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MANILA 14271 02 OF 02 091047Z

PRESIDENT MARCOS, WHO HAS MADE STRONG VERBAL COMMITMENT IN RECENT WEEKS TO GRADUAL SOFTENING OF MARTIAL LAW.

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

STULL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: STUDENTS, CIVIL DISORDERS, UNIVERSITIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MANILA14271
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770326-1312
Format: TEL
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770981/aaaacqqj.tel
Line Count: 171
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 714e9849-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 MANILA 9866, 77 MANILA 10187, 77 MANILA 11336, 77 MANILA 13430
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1334264
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MORE STUDENT UNREST
TAGS: PINT, RP, MANUEL QUEZON UNIVERSITY
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/714e9849-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009